ports and ICD/CFS. The other measures include simplification of Customs procedures, setting up of ICDs/CFSs/Air cargo Complexes etc. to identify the bottlenecks for corrective measures.

New Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme

415. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Schemes (IVBSS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the scheme will come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With an aim to reduce capital burden on prospective IWT entrepreneur, thereby enhancing their profitability and making IWT tariff competitive, an Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme has recently been approved by the Government. The scheme will come into effect from 1.4.2002 and remain in force for a period of 5 years. The Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme would be applicable to both cargo & passenger inland vessels meant for operation on National Waterways. The subsidy will be available only for vessels acquired by an Indian inland water transport entrepreneur from a shipyard in India. The subsidy payable under this scheme would be equal to 30% of the ex-factory price of the inland vessel.

Development of Consortium of Ports

416. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Kolkata Port Trust for development of a ""Consortium of Ports" in South Asia under the auspices of Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka-Economic Co-operation (BITMS-EC) to facilitate trade activities between these member countries;

(b) if so, the details of the various proposals received and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the fresh initiative taken to enhance trade volumes between the BITMS-EC countries after their recently concluded fourth Ministerial meeting at Rangoon (Myanmar)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No specific proposal has been received by the Ministry.

(c) Upgradation of port facilities and infrastructure at Calcutta port is a continuous process, which would also help enhancing trade volumes between BITMS-EC countries.

Patronage of SCI in crude import

417. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India desires to have the patronage of public sector oil companies for carrying their crude imports;

(b) if so, the response of Government to this;

(c) whether the oil companies will not be denied advantage of competitive bidding if Government agree to it; and

(d) if so, the extent of loss of oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The request of Shipping Corporation of India has been taken up with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for a decision. The decision of that Ministry is awaited.

Rehabilitation of handicapped in Gujarat earthquake

418. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people were rendered handicapped as a result of Gujarat earthquake as reported in the news-item appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 26th January, 2002; and

(b) if so, the efforts made by Govenment to rehabilitate those handicapped by providing additional financial / material assistance?